

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 OSLO 03542 231145Z

43

ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ERDA-05

ACDA-05 OMB-01 /070 W

----- 047748

R 221552Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 297

INFO CNO WASHDC

USCINCEUR

SECDEF

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCLANT

CINCLANTFLT

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 3542

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MNUC, MARR, OCLR, NO

SUBJ: USS NIMITZ TO NORTHERN EUROPE

REF: A. STATE 196713, B. OSLO 3397

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY' DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR PLITICAL AFFAIRS
VIBE INFORMED DCM AUGUST 21, IN RESPONSE TO EMBASSY QUERY ABOUT
STATUS OF DECISION, THAT THERE WAS NO REASON FOR CONCERN ABOUT
PROPECTS FOR VISIT, IN HIS JUDGEMENT. FINAL DECISION COULD NOT BE
TAKEN, HOWEVER, BEFORE FULL CABINET MEETING NEXT MONDAY, AUG 25,
IN ACCORDANCE WITH "PROPER PROCEDURES."

2. IN FACT, REQUEST FOR VISIT HAS CAUSED CONSIDERABLE CONCERN
WITHIN LABOR PARTY LEADERSHIP BECAUSE OF PRESENTELECTORAL CAMPAIGN.
LABOR HAD HOPED THAT PROSPECT OF VISIT WOULD OT BE DISCUSSED IN
PRESS PRIOR TO ELECTIONS ON SEPT 14-15. AS EXPLAINED BY DEFENSE
MINISTRY' UNDER SECRETARY AASLAND AUG 19. MINISTER FOSTERVOLL
HAD HOPED FOR VISIT IN RATHER DIFFERENT TIME FRAME TO AVOID PRO-
VIDING TARGET FOR SOCIALIST LEFT COALITION, WHICH IS IN DISARRAY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 OSLO 03542 231145Z

AND LOOKING DESPERATELY FOR ISSUE ON WHICH TO ATTACK GOVERNMENT.

FOSTERVOLL SUBSEQUENTLY CONFIRMED TO AMBASSADOR THAT HE WAS CONCERNED THAT PUBLICITY ABOUT VISIT WILL INEVITABLY SURFACE BEFORE ELECTIONS AND COULD BECOME AN ISSUE; BUT WHILE CONCERNED ABOUT TIMING, HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR US SENDING NIMITZ HERE AND ASSURED AMBASSADOR OF HIS SUPPORT AT ANY MINISTERIAL DISCUSSIONS. SINCE OSLO IS THE MOST IMPORTANT UPCOMING MUNICIPAL ELECTION, AND LABOR PARTY IS IN GREAT DIFFICULTY HERE, LABOR GOVERNMENT IS PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE TO POSSIBLE IMPACT OF VISIT ON ITS POLITICAL FUTURE.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND IN PARTICULAR HAS ALSO BEEN CONCERNED BECAUSE SV'S LEADING DEFENSE SPOKESMAN HENRIKSEN RAISED QUESTION IN THE STORTING LAST MAY TO VISIT OF FOREIGN VESSELS WITH NUCLEAR WEAPONS ABOARD TO NORWEGIAN PORTS. IN HIS RESPONSE, ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER GJERDE ALSO RAISED QUESTION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS CARRIED BY NUCLEAR-PROPELLED VESSELS. IN STATEMENT WHICH COULD BE PERTINENT IF SV RAISES QUESTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH NIMITZ VISIT, GJERDE SAID IN STORTING: "A SPECIAL PROCEDURE HAS BEEN ADOPTED WITH REGARD TO NUCLEAR-PROPELLED VESSELS, WHERE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND MINISTRY OF DEFENSE JOINTLY TAKE POSITION ON EACH INDIVIDUAL CASE. FOR CALLS OF THIS NATURE- WHICH HAVE THUS FAR BEEN VERY FEW AND RESTRICTED TO SOME NUCLEAR-PROPELLED SUBMARINES-IT HAS BEEN A CONDITION THAT NUCLEAR WEAPONS SHALL NOT BE CARRIED ONBOARD DURING STAY IN NORWEGIAN TERRITORY. MINISTRY OF DEFENSE HAS NO GROUND TO BELIEVE THAT THESE VESSELS HAVE BEEN CARRYING NUCLEAR WEAPONS WHILE STAYING IN NORWEGIAN PORT.

" HOWEVER, ALL FOREIGN WARSHIPS AND MILITARY AIRCRAFT ENJOY IMMUNITY UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW AND CAN THEREFORE NOT BE INSPECTED BY AUTHORITIES OF OTHER STATES. OWING TO THIS IMMUNITY IT HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN CERTAIN GUARANTEE THAT THE FOREIGN MILITARY UNITS DO NOT HAVE NUCLEAR WEAPONS ONBOARD. HOWEVER, IT IS NOT CONSIDERED LIKELY"...

4. WE HAVE RECEIVED HINTS OF NORWAY' INDECISION THROUGH QUERIES FROM DEFENSE MINISTRY ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF POSTPONING VISIT OR CHOOSING DIFFERENT PORT IN NORWAY. WE HAVE, OF COURSE, DISCOURAGED THE SEARCH FOR AN ALTERNATE DATE OR PORT WHILE APPRECIATING NORWEGIAN HOPES TO POSTPONE ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISIT TO LAST MINUTE. CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 OSLO 03542 231145Z

WE BELIEVE THAT NORWEGIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE FINALLY COME TO CONCLUSION, IN LIGHT OF PRESS LEAK AND INEVITABLE DISCUSSION OF PREPARATIONS FOR VISIT, THAT THEY WOULD HURT RATHER THAN HELP THEMSELVES POLITICALLY BY TRYING TO PRETEND UNTIL AFTER ELECTIONS THAT VISIT IS NOT GOING TO TAKE PLACE IN NEAR FUTURE. FACT THAT LEFTISTS HAVE NOT YET MADE SERIOUS ISSUE OF VISIT SHOULD FACILITATE WHAT WE EXPECT TO BE POSITIVE DECISION AT MONDAY'S CABINET MEETING.

5. IN RESPONSE TO REF A, WE DO NOT CONSIDER THAT ADDITIONAL CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE IS NECESSARY.
BYRNE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, NAVAL SHIPS, NUCLEAR POWERED SHIPS, PORT CALLS, NIMITZ USS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975OSLO003542
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750292-1081
From: OSLO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750827/aaaaaxdb.tel
Line Count: 119
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 196713, 75 OSLO 3397
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 APR 2003 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <16 OCT 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: USS NIMITZ TO NORTHERN EUROPE
TAGS: MNUC, MARR, OCLR, NO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006